

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

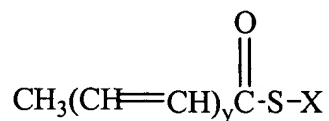
This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of all the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A skin care compound comprising at least one bonding agent [[and]] covalently bound to at least one characteristic use agent, wherein said bonding agent is a crotonyl thiol ester, and wherein said characteristic use agent is a chemical moiety coupled to the crotonyl thiol ester via the sulfur atom and is selected from the group consisting of emollients and skin soothing agents, moisturizers, sunscreens, insecticides, antibacterials, fungicides, skin lightening agents, artificial tanning agents, free-radical scavengers, antivirals, anti-acne agents, anti-wrinkle and anti-skin atrophy agents, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A skin care compound according to Claim 1 wherein said skin care compound is characterized by the formula

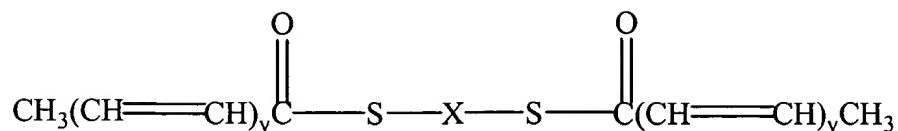


wherein

y is 1; and

X is the characteristic use agent.

4. (Withdrawn) A skin care compound according to Claim 1 wherein said skin care compound is characterized by the formula



wherein

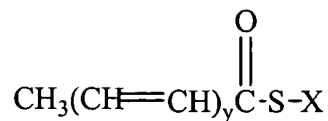
each y is independently 1 or 2; and

X is the characteristic use agent.

5. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition comprising: a cosmetically acceptable carrier; and a skin care compound comprising at least one bonding agent and at least one characteristic use agent, wherein said bonding agent is selected from the group consisting of crotonyl thiol esters, sorbyl thiol esters, and mixtures thereof, and wherein said characteristic use agent is a chemical moiety selected from the group consisting of emollients and skin soothing agents, moisturizers, sunscreens, insecticides, antibacterials, fungicides, skin lightening agents, artificial tanning agents, free-radical scavengers, antivirals, anti-acne agents, artificial tanning agents, anti-wrinkle and anti-skin atrophy agents, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.

6. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 5 wherein said bonding agent is selected from the group consisting of crotonyl thiol esters, sorbyl thiol esters, and mixtures thereof; and wherein said characteristic use agent is selected from the group consisting of emollients and skin soothing agents, moisturizers, sunscreens, insecticides, antibacterials, fungicides, skin lightening agents, artificial tanning agents, free-radical scavengers, antivirals, anti-acne agents, artificial tanning agents, anti-wrinkle and anti-skin atrophy agents, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 5 wherein said skin care compound is characterized by the formula

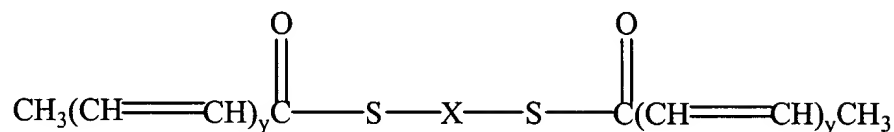


wherein

y is 1 or 2; and

X is the characteristic use agent.

8. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 5 wherein said skin care compound is characterized by the formula



wherein

each y is independently 1 or 2; and

X is the characteristic use agent.

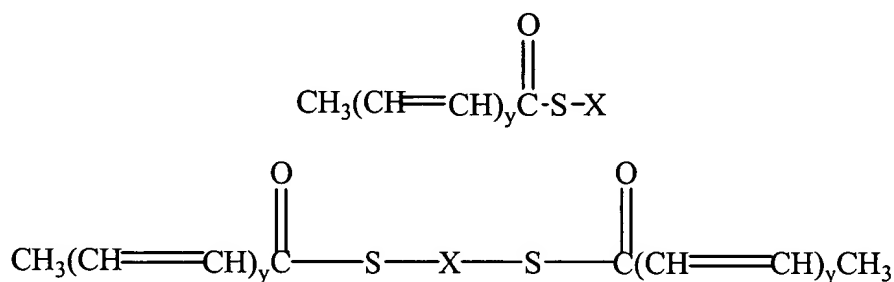
9. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 5 further comprising a catalytic amount of base.

10. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 9, wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, heterocyclic and aromatic amines, imines, salts of organic and inorganic acids, and mixtures thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A skin care composition according to Claim 10 wherein said base is selected from the group consisting of 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene, bicarbonate, carbonate, triethanolamine, phosphate, and mixtures thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of conferring a skin care benefit by applying to mammalian skin a skin care compound comprising at least one bonding agent and at least one characteristic use agent, wherein said bonding agent is selected from the group consisting of crotonyl thiol esters, sorbyl thiol esters, and mixtures thereof; and wherein said characteristic use agent is selected from the group consisting of emollients and skin soothing agents, moisturizers, sunscreens, insecticides, antibacterials, fungicides, skin soothing agents, skin lightening agents, artificial tanning agents, free-radical scavengers, antivirals, anti-acne agents, artificial tanning agents, anti-wrinkle and anti-skin atrophy agents, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) A method according to Claim 12 wherein said skin care compound is selected from the group consisting of



and mixtures thereof;

wherein

each y is independently 1 or 2; and

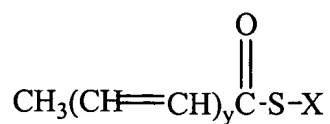
X is the characteristic use agent.

14. (Currently Amended) A skin care compound comprising at least one bonding agent covalently bound to at least one characteristic use agent, wherein said bonding agent is a sorbyl thiol ester, and wherein said characteristic use agent is a chemical moiety coupled to the sorbyl thiol ester via the sulfur atom and is selected from the group consisting of emollients and

skin soothing agents, moisturizers, sunscreens, antibacterials, fungicides, skin lightening agents, artificial tanning agents, free-radical scavengers, antivirals, anti-acne agents, artificial tanning agents, anti-wrinkle and anti-skin atrophy agents, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A skin care compound according to Claim 14 wherein said skin care compound is characterized by the formula



wherein

y is 2; and

X is the characteristic use agent.